



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 24, 2017

The Honorable Bill Dodd
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 202** (Dodd) – As Introduced January 31, 2017 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Dodd:

The County of San Bernardino is writing in support of SB 202, which would increase the personal needs allowance amount from \$35 to \$80 per month while a person is a patient in a medical institution, nursing facility, or receiving institutional or non-institutional services from a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly organization. This bill would also require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to annually increase this payment based on the California Consumer Price Index.

Existing law requires DHCS to establish income levels for maintenance needs at the lowest levels that reasonably permit a medically-needy individual to meet his or her basic needs. In over 30 years, the state has not increased the personal and incidental needs amount or revised the calculation methodology. The personal and incidental needs payment for institutionalized Medi-Cal beneficiaries has remained at \$35 since 1985; however, the inflation rate over the same time period has increased by 126%. The maintenance needs allowance is intended to cover incidentals such as clothing, shoes, hair styling, snacks and/or entertainment needs. However, at \$35 per month, individuals living in long term care facilities are unable to meet their basic incidental needs.

SB 202 seeks to increase the personal needs allowance to \$80 per month, thereby allowing a medically-needy, institutionalized individual to meet his or her basic needs and gain greater independence.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 202. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lovingood".

Robert Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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